

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15907 311449Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /079 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3342
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 15907

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CI, FR
SUBJECT: FRANCO-CHILEAN RELATIONS: MADAME ALLENDE VISITS
FRENCH PRESIDENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MRS. HORTENSIA ALLENDE, WIDOW OF THE LATE PRESIDENT OF CHILE, CALLED ON PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ON THURSDAY MAY 26. AFTER HER MEETING WITH GISCARD, MRS. ALLENDE TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT SHE HAD ASKED THE FRENCH PRESIDENT TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF 3,000 CHILEAN POLITICAL PRISONERS STILL BEING HELD. DURING COURSE OF HER VISIT, MRS. ALLENDE ALSO CALLED ON THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS ALL OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE LEFT OPPOSITION PARTIES. FRENCH PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO HER VISIT, ESPECIALLY HER CALL ON THE PRESIDENT. SOME NEWSPAPERS CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WHILE SHE WAS BEING RECEIVED IN PARIS, FREI AND AIMEIDA WERE MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN WASHINGTON. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. EARLIER THIS YEAR, GISCARD REFUSED TO SEE SOVIET DISSIDENT AMALRIK, A DECISION THAT CAUSED MAJOR CONTROVERSY IN FRENCH PRESS. HE COULD NOT AFFORD TO MAKE SAME MISTAKE WITH MRS. ALLENDE, AND COULD RECEIVE HER AT NO INTERNAL POLITICAL COST SINCE THERE IS LITTLE SYMPATHY IN FRANCE FOR THE PINOCHET REGIME EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR

EXTREME RIGHT FRINGE. FRENCH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CHILE, HOWEVER, ESPECIALLY FOR COMMERCIAL REASONS. SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY MICHEL PONIATOWSKI WILL THEREFORE INCLUDE CHILE ON HIS ITINERARY DURING FORTHCOMING GOODWILL TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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